

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
ADVOCACY & AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

September 1, 2011

IAC Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Pam Hicks, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Pam Hicks, Tetia Lee, Linda Levell

Members via teleconference: Jon Ford (ex officio), Jeanne Mirro

Members absent: John DePrez, Judy Hess, Suzie Rentschler, Kelly Schreckengast

IAC staff present: Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin, Lewis Ricci, Rex Van Zant

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** IAC Commissioner Pam Hicks called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent agenda.** Due to lack of quorum present, no action was taken. Those present agreed to adhere to the agenda as presented. The minutes from June 30, 2011 will be voted upon at a special meeting of the committee prior to the next meeting of the full Commission on September 16, 2011

3. **IAC Advocacy Update.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci reported that the next budget for the National Endowment for the Arts will likely see a reduction in funds, as a result of the recently-passed federal debt-reduction bill. The amount of the funding reduction and its impact on state arts agencies will not be known until Congress passes its next budget in 2012 (handout attached). Regarding state funding issues, Mr. Ricci explained that the next session of the legislature will be a "short session" and will not involve a new state budget. Representative Eric Koch has asked if there are any specific IAC initiatives that he might be able to bring to the House floor during the short session. One area where IAC would like to see progress is the Cultural Districts program, which currently has no funding from the legislature, but the next logical step would be to allow designated Cultural Districts to become tax-incentive districts as well. Tetia Lee, president of the Indiana Coalition for the Arts, stated that maintaining arts education funding is a priority. Another idea worth pursuing is to require public schools to include fine arts in the regular curriculum.

4. **State Arts Advocates Update.** Ms. Lee reported that the Indiana Coalition for the Arts held its latest meeting last week, with the focus on arts education. The organization will be meeting at a retreat soon to formulate a new 5-year strategic plan. Mr. Ricci reported that the application for organizational funding from the Indiana Coalition for the Arts Foundation did not score highly enough to merit an IAC grant for

FY 2012, and that the organization's application for technical assistance funding was scored below the acceptance level as well, although the latter category of grants have yet to be approved by the full Commission.

5. **Governor's Arts Awards.** IAC Marketing Director Rex Van Zant reported that six nominees have been approved to receive the Governor's Arts Award for 2011. However, due to conflicts in the Governor's schedule, the award ceremony will be postponed until spring 2012, and the likely date of the ceremony will be April 26th. The program will be held on the campus of Indiana University-South Bend. At least one recipient has communicated that he will not be able to attend.

6. **New Business.** Commissioner Jeanne Mirro reported on plans to host a gathering of former Commissioners, which will be held in Indianapolis in conjunction with the IAC Quarterly Business Meeting on December 9, 2012. The purpose of the gathering is to re-engage former Commissioners with the mission of the agency and to garner their expertise in efforts to secure state and federal funding. Former Commissioners Anita Cast and Ann Stack have been assisting in the planning. There will be a discussion meeting which will be facilitated by Commissioner Trevor Yager, and an opportunity to socialize afterward. Ms. Mirro also wants to establish an Emeritus Council consisting of a core group of former Commissioners which would convene at appointed times during the year to advise and assist wherever possible.

7. **Old Business.** Mr. Van Zant reported on the Bureau of Motor Vehicles UBU campaign for marketing special-issue license plates (handout attached). In the coming year, there will be approximately 80 specialty plates available for purchase. IAC Communications Manager Laura Frank reported on IAC's E-communications efforts (handout attached). She added that a quarterly e-communications report will become one of the regular metrics presented to the state administration.

8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Hicks thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 10:50 a.m.